DAL: DB2 Host Date/Time For Time Stamp (3/93)

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TOPIC ---

I want to use the date and time as data in a DB2 database in a client/server environment. I can not use the date and time of the Macintosh, because it is not necessarily the same among Macintosh client stations.

Is it possible to obtain and use the date and time of the DAL server as data for our DB2 database? (The data will be use as an historical events registry and the date and time is essential). How can I do this?

I currently use DAL-VTAM to communicate with DB2. The client is a 4D application using 4D-DAL.

DISCUSSION ---

DB2 supports access to two system-level data items called:
- Current date
- Current time

DAL does not support the use of these "reserved words", or special data items, at this time.

In the meantime, we can think of only one "work-around" if you are willing to do the following:

1) Create a table with two fields:
```
Create table datetime (datefield date, timefield time);
```

2) Grant all access to this table to public.

3) In your application do the following set of DAL statements. (What we're doing here is having you request the system date & time, update the one-record table with that information, and use that information for a timestamp in whatever way you need.) This may not be the best solution, but it is the best we can offer at this time:

   3.1 Execute in DB2:
```
"delete * from date_table";
```

```
   3.2  Execute in DB2:
          "insert into date_table values (current date, current time)";

   3.3  In your application:
          select datefield, timefield from datetime;

   3.4  Use these values as you need.

We haven't been able to test this solution completely - our DB2 won't allow
any new tables because the disk (VTOC) is full - but we feel pretty sure
that this is close to the correct SQL, and you should be able to work it
out yourself if there are any minor errors.
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